

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
AID-05 EB-08 DHA-02 /115 W
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R 230800Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0711
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, KE, FR, US, XA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH FONMIN DE GUIRINGAUD

REF: STATE 196242 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IN AUGUST 12-13 VISIT TO KENYA, FRENCH FONMIN DE GUIRINGAUD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH GOK OFFICIALS INCLUDING FONMIN WAIYAKI AND VICE PRESIDENT MOI, COVERING BILATERAL ISSUES, THE HORN, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN. THE KENYANS WERE INTERESTED IN FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE, REQUESTED ACCELERATED DELIVERY ON ALREADY-ORDERED HELICOPTERS, AND EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER PROPOSED FRENCH ARMS TO SOMALIA. DE GUIRIGAUD TOLD KENYANS IN ESSENCE THAT NO FRENCH ARMS WILL GO TO SOMALIA

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UNTIL OGADEN SITUATION "CLEARED UP." HE EXPLAINED FRENCH POLICY CONCERN OVER DJIBOUTI AND RECENT DECISION AGAINST ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA. DE GUIRINGAUD'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND TALKS RECEIVED LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE BUT NOT OF FRONT-PAGE VARIETY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN NAIROBI SAID TALKS WENT FAIRLY WELL--ESPECIALLY COMPARED WITH OTHER STOPS ON TRIP--BUT FRENCH WERE GENERALLY DISAPPOINTED WITH ANGLOPHONE AFRICA'S RESERVOIR OF SUSPICION OF FRENCH MOTIVES AND

ACTIONS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVES SOVIETS DELIBERATELY SABOTAGED DE GUIRINGAUD'S VISIT TO AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED DE GUIRINGAUD VISIT WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR GIRARD, WHO SAID BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS PRIMARILY CONCERNED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND ARMS DELIVERIES TO KENYA. FRENCH NOW HAVE FR. 5 MILLION AID PROGRAM IN KENYA AND WISH TO EXPAND IT. KENYANS WERE INTERESTED IN FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR NEW LOANS (ACCORDING TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER FR. 100 MILLION ON COMMERCIAL TERMS AND FR. 50 MILLION SOFT TERMS), BUT DISCUSSIONS DID NOT GET TOO SPECIFIC. GOK IS NOW SUPPOSED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR SPENDING LOAN PROCEEDS. KENYANS DID NOT SHOW INTEREST IN FRENCH PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE SECAM COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEM.

3. GOK OFFICIALS REQUESTED SPEED-UP ON DELIVERY OF FRENCH HELICOPTERS AND, ACCORDING TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FRENCH ACP'S. HOWEVER, FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID NO NEW ARMS AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED.

4. DE GUIRINGAUD REPORTEDLY SAID FRANCE DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE POSITION IN CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALIA. ITS ONLY STRATEGIC INTEREST IN AFRICA REMAINS IN DJIBOUTI, WHOSE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY FRANCE HAS PLEDGED TO MAINTAIN. DE GUIRINGAUD TOLD KENYANS PRIVATELY THAT FRANCE SUPPORTS 1964 OAU RESOLUTION ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WILL NOT DELIVER ARMS TO SOMALIA BEFORE OGADEN SITUATION CLARIFIED. HE SAID ONLY 10 PERCENT OF SOMALI SHOPPING

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LIST IS BEING CONSIDERED, AND THESE ARMS ALL DEFENSIVE. ACCORDING TO AUG. 14-15 "LE MONDE" ARTICLE DATEDLINE NAIROBI, GOK OFFICIALS IMPRESSED ON FRENCH FONMIN KENYA'S BELIEF THAT ITS NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT WILL BE SOMALIA'S NEXT TARGET AFTER OGADEN. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID FRANCE INTENDS TO BE CAUTIOUS; IT DOES NOT WANT TO OFFER ANY AGGRESSOR PRETEXT AGAINST DJIBOUTI BY ADOPTING ATTITUDE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PROVOCATIVE.

5. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, DE GUIRINGAUD SAID IN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT FRANCE SUPPORTS PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND PARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE PROMISED TO UPHOLD BAN ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA, ALTHOUGH FRANCE WILL MAKE DELIVERY ON NAVAL VESSELS NOW BEING BUILT FOR PRETORIA. HE DENIED FRANCE HAS PROVIDED ARMS TO RHODESIA IN VIOLATION OF UN SANCTIONS.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FRENCH BELIEVE TASS ARTICLE CLAIMING SOUTH AFRICA READY TO TEST NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS DELIBERATELY CONTRIVED IN EFFORT TO SABOTAGE DE GUIRINGAUD VISIT BY LINKING FRANCO-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR POWER

AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. IN INTERVIEW WITH NAIROBI WEEKLY REVIEW, DE GURINGAUD VENTED HIS SPLEEN SOMEWHAT AGAINST THIS SOVIET HARASSMENT BY TERMING THE TASS ALLEGATION "A DIPLOMATIC GAME" TO "DISTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE AFRICANS FROM THE FACT THAT THEY (SOVIETS) ARE FUELING THE WAR BETWEEN SOMALIA

AND ETHIOPIA." ASKED IF THERE ARE ANY AREAS IN AFRICAN ISSUES WITH WHICH HE AGREES WITH THE SOVIET UNION, HE REPLIED: I WOULD BE AT A LOSS TO FIND ANY."

7. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA, SOLODOVNIKOV, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MASTER-MINDED DIPLOMATIC "SABOTAGE" EFFORT AGAINST FRANCE, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATIONS IN DAR ES SALAAM.

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8. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GIRARD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FRENCH INTENTIONS ARE STILL VIEWED WITH CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA, AND HE ATTRIBUTED THIS MISTRUSTFUL ATTITUDE TO DIFFERENCES IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH COLONIAL RACIAL POLICIES.

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